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April 1, 1999

LB 499, 722

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 499.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (LB) 499 advances. LB 722.

CLERK: (LB) 722 by Senator Crosby. (Read title.) Bill was introduced January 20, referred to Judiciary, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Crosby, you're recognized to open on 722.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. LB 722 is actually brought on behalf of the State Patrol. It brings a procedural change for the way we...on criminal background checks of certain employees who work with the developmentally disables and that...disabled, and this bill has to do with how those checks are routed. In 1997, I introduced and the Legislature passed LB 852, which is the...was the beginning of the criminal history record checks for employees who work with these people. After about a year we had a meeting, more than one meeting, with the State Patrol, Health and Human Services, associated...Association of Retarded Citizens, the...some of the providers and other interested people to see how it was working. The providers and Health and Human Services, the Patrol all have been really good to draft reasonable rules and regulations and to make this bill..this legislation work. The State Patrol is inundated with requests for state criminal checks, there were about 30,000 of them in 1998, with submitting fingerprints to the FBI for the federal checks. Then they send the results to various agencies and people. So one part of our procedure is different than with the other background checks and that's the current statutory requirement that the Patrol sends the results to individual providers and to the employees themselves. With the other criminal checks, for instance, the Department of Education for check for teacher certification, they all go to the Department of Education. They don't send them to teachers and so on. So the state...the Patrol, this brings an added burden to the Patrol of sending this to literally hundreds of different addresses and it causes a delay, which sets the providers back in getting the employees they need. So this bill